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Mr. Dawson's second volume, in which the subject (if we rightly interpret a passage in his "Introduction") is to be examined. Mr. Hamilton insists emphatically on the evidence supplied by the internal characteristics of the papers themselves. But it may be that he has not utterly exhausted the soil, and that further analysis may yet add something to the body of this evidence. Whether the result would be altogether confirmatory of his view, we do not undertake to say. Secondary and imperfect as such proof must often be, and overstrained as in its application it will be without the nicest touch and the coolest judgment, still, in an auxiliary point of view, it cannot be slighted; and in a case like the present, where the declarations of honorable men are irreconcilable, there is little else to build upon. This sort of evidence cannot, indeed, always be definitely set forth, because it is so delicate, and acts so much by suggestion and impression. For this reason, we can hardly expect that this question of authorship will ever be comfortably disposed of.

Mr. Hamilton has increased the value of his edition by prefixing to the *Federalist* proper a series of earlier papers written by his father under the title of "The *Continentalist*." And he has given us in full Hamilton's first "Plan of Government," as read by him in the Convention at Philadelphia. If with the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States we had found the first Constitution of the State of New York, which is so often referred to and dwelt upon in the *Federalist*, and is much less accessible than the other two documents, the addition would have been welcome and useful.

This is a very convenient edition for common use. The editor could not well have added the historical and other illustrative notes now so much needed, without swelling the volume to a cumbrous bulk, or curtailing his *Historical Notice*. For the sake of a brief, pithy, unpedantic commentary, given page by page, in the natural place, his readers might perhaps have pardoned a little compression of the introductory matter.

7.—*An Introduction to Municipal Law. Designed for General Readers, and for Students in Colleges and Higher Schools.* By JOHN NORTON POMEROY, Counsellor at Law. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1864. 8vo. pp. xxxviii. and 544.

THE superlative epithets lavished by a sycophantic criticism on mere literature, whether in verse or prose, often have all the effect of irony, and, so far from elevating mediocrity in the public esteem, tend to sink

it into contempt. But in science, or in some department of exact knowledge, it is by no means strange that the last book should be, if by a competent author, as it is frequently pronounced to be, "the best book of the kind ever written." No man of both sense and learning will write such a book, unless he is distinctly aware of some want that needs to be supplied,—of some purpose now to be attained only by the consultation of several and scattered authorities, which may be subserved by a single manual,—and unless he is conscious of the requisite erudition and ability to prepare such a manual. To be sure, one can never pronounce with certainty how long such a work may continue the best; for its appearance may so clarify the mental vision of its readers, as to suggest new wants and new appetences in the same department, and thus its very excellence may lead to its early supersedure.

We should be inclined to employ superlatives with reference to the book before us, if there were the opportunity of using comparatives in speaking of it. But we believe that it has the distinction of being the *only* book of its kind. Yet it is surprising that this void should have remained to the present time in our educational literature,—that there should have been no text-book on the law adapted to the wants of the general reader or scholar. This book comprises what every educated man ought to know, and very little else. It displays care, thoroughness, and deliberation on the part of the author. It has a symmetrical and well-knit skeleton. It is laid out with unusual skill. The plan comprehends equally theory, history, and existing fact,—the theories that so underlie legal organisms and procedures as to be implied and presupposed by them; the history that is indispensably necessary to account for things as they are; and the actual condition of law and its administration, fully and expressly as regards America and Great Britain, briefly and incidentally as regards Continental Europe.

The Introductory Chapter of more than fifty pages is devoted chiefly to definitions, and to the various divisions and classifications of law, as to its subject-matter, its origin, its modes of promulgation (including a specification of the diverse classes of courts), and the several categories under which the whole or a portion of it may be considered. The First Part relates to the genesis of the law,—“its means, methods, and forms of development.” Of course large space is here given to the unwritten law,—to the method in which judicial decisions acquire the sacredness and prestige of statutes, and to the wide difference in this respect between England and the United States on the one hand, and the nations of the European Continent on the other. The Second Part treats of the “National Sources of English and American Law,” defining, as regards English law, from which our own is for the most part derived,

the relative influence of the aborigines of Great Britain, the several conquering and invading nations, the feudal system, the maritime codes of the Middle Age, and the Roman law since its study has been revived. The Third Part describes our Municipal Law as it is, and enters very much at large into the rights of person and property, and the modes in which those rights are to be asserted and vindicated, with the most lucid explanation of the legal processes, maxims, and terms which are so apt to make the language of a court-room a "Babylonish dialect" to all the uninitiated.

A book of this kind should have peculiar merits of style. As to the first requisite, perspicuity, Mr. Pomeroy is faultless. This perspicuity is effected, too, without sacrifice of the next requisite, conciseness. Indeed, it is the marvel of the book that such a multitude of things can, without confusion or obscurity, be stowed in so limited a space. As regards the mere graces of style, there is nothing either to reprehend or to admire. There are no vulgarisms, or solecisms, or mannerisms, no traces of affectation, no ambitious writing; while, on the other hand, we are not, as in reading many portions of Blackstone's Commentaries, compelled to own in the mere diction, independently of its uses, a rare and brilliant beauty. Mr. Pomeroy is a correct and good writer, without any striking or fascinating rhetorical power.

We welcome this book as supplying a need which has been deeply felt in our higher seminaries of education. Law ought to be a part of a college course; but it cannot be studied to advantage without a textbook. This work is precisely what was wanted for such uses, and is adapted to be equally serviceable, whether employed as furnishing a syllabus of subjects for oral instruction, or as a manual for recitation. We are glad to know that it has already been adopted by several of our colleges. We trust that the example will be generally followed. We do not expect, indeed, by a single book or course of instruction, to graduate students learned in the law. But the prime object of our apparatus for what we call liberal education is to propound and open subjects to be pursued in after life; and the range of interest, curiosity, and research in mature years is determined chiefly by the more or less comprehensive scope of the youthful *curriculum*. Our educated men, other than lawyers, generally know as little of the law as they do of Sanscrit; and the chief reason is, that this has not been among the departments forced upon their cognizance by the educators through whose hands they were passed over to their own tuition.